

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claims 17 and 18 are amended without prejudice to no longer recite any multiple dependencies.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

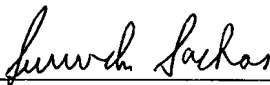
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Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/SNS:sjh

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Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record